

What is claimed is:

1. A word isolator device comprising:

a thin, elongated base portion having a medially disposed aperture therethrough to define a viewing window through said base portion and to permit
5 observation from a point above said base portion through said aperture of a location below said base portion,

a thin, elongated slide member sized and dimensioned to substantially fully occlude said viewing window when positioned in general alignment with said viewing window,

10 said base portion and said slide member being positionable and complementarily engageable with one another to permit slidable movement therebetween between a first position in which the viewing window is substantially fully occluded by said slide member and a second position in which the viewing window is substantially fully unoccluded by said slide member, said viewing
15 member being partially occluded at intermediate positions,

said engaged base portion and slide member being positionable to rest upon a generally flat surface to encompass within the outline of said viewing window text appearing on said generally flat surface and to uncover the text encompassed within the outline of the viewing window as said slide member is
20 slidably moved relative to said base portion from said first position to said second position.

2. The word isolator device of claim 1 wherein

said base portion comprises a sheet-like member folded over on to
25 itself to define upper and lower portions and an intermediate slot therebetween, said upper portion at least partially overlapping said lower portion, said upper and lower

portions each including an elongated opening therein, said elongated openings being generally sized and aligned with one another to form said aperture through said base portion and to permit observation from a point above said upper portion through said aligned openings of a location below said lower portion,

5 said slide member is sized and dimensioned to fit within said intermediate slot of said base portion and to be slidably movable therein to substantially fully occlude said viewing window when in a first position, to substantially fully expose said viewing window when in a second position, and to partially occlude said viewing window when intermediate said first and second
10 positions.

3. The word isolator of claim 2 wherein said lower portion includes an outer surface, said outer surface being adapted to abuttingly engage a generally flat surface when said base portion is rested thereon.

15 4. The word isolator device of claim 2 wherein said base portion and said slide member include complementary engagement portions for mating said base portion and said slide member to one another and for maintaining said base portion and said slide member in slidable relationship with one another.

20 5. The word isolator device of claim 4 wherein said complementary engagement portions include at least one flange on at least one of said base portion and said slide member projecting therefrom and folded over to engage a portion of the other of said base portion and said slide member.

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6. The word isolator device of claim 1 wherein said base member includes a flap portion of substantially the same size as said aperture and connected along a portion of the periphery of said aperture, said flap portion being bendable at or near its point of connection to reveal the full size of the aperture in one position
5 and to occlude a portion of said aperture when in other positions, the bent position of said flap thereby altering the size of said viewing window through said base portion.

7. A kit for an assembleable educational device for isolating words appearing on a flat surface, comprising:

a sheet-like member forming a base portion, said sheet-like member being foldable over on to itself to define a generally thin, elongated configuration having upper and lower portions and an intermediate slot therebetween, said upper portion at least partially overlapping said lower portion, said upper and lower portions each including a generally rectangular elongated opening therein, said elongated openings being generally sized and aligned with one another to form an aperture through the folded configuration and to permit observation from a point above said upper portion through said aligned openings of a location below said lower portion, said aperture defining a viewing window, said upper portion including a slit generally parallel to said elongated opening therein and the fold in said sheet-like member,

a thin, elongated strip forming a slide member, said strip sized and dimensioned to fit within said intermediate slot between the upper and lower portions of said base portion and to be slidably movable therein to substantially fully occlude said viewing window when in a first position, to substantially fully expose said viewing window when in a second position, and to partially occlude said viewing window when intermediate said first and second positions, said strip including at least one projection portion sized and dimensioned to extend through said slit in said upper portion of said base portion and to move therealong as said slide member is slidably moved relative to said base portion, said slide member including a portion extending beyond said base portion even when said slide member is positioned to substantially fully occlude said viewing window, said extending portion forming a handle portion,

said slide member positionable within said slot of said base portion with said projection portion extending through said slit in said upper portion of said base portion when said sheet-like member is in said folded configuration to form an assembled word isolator device,

5 said assembled word isolator device positionable upon a generally flat surface to encompass text appearing thereon within the outline of the viewing window and to allow the viewing of at least a portion of said encompassed text as said slide member is slidably moved relative to said base portion while said base portion remains in such position,

10 said handle portion being movable by a user to effect slidable movement of said slide member relative to said base portion to control the degree of occlusion of the viewing window and the amount of text viewable through said viewing window.

8. A template for an assembleable educational device for isolating words appearing on a flat surface, comprising:

a sheet of material having markings thereon defining a detachable base portion component and a detachable slide member component,

5 said detachable base portion component being sized and dimensioned to be, when detached from said sheet of material, foldable over on to itself to define a generally thin, elongated configuration having upper and lower portions and an intermediate slot therebetween, said upper portion at least partially overlapping said lower portion, said upper and lower portions each including a similarly sized and
10 dimensioned detachable generally rectangular elongated portion each of which is detachable to effect a generally rectangular elongated opening, said elongated openings being generally sized and aligned with one another to form an aperture through the folded configuration and to permit observation from a point above said upper portion through said aligned openings of a location below said lower portion,
15 said aperture defining a viewing window, said upper portion including an openable slit located generally parallel to said elongated opening in said upper portion and the fold in said sheet-like member,

 said slide member component being sized and dimensioned to be, when detached from said sheet of material, a thin, elongated strip sized and
20 dimensioned to fit within said intermediate slot between the upper and lower portions of said base portion and to be slidably movable therein to substantially fully occlude said viewing window when in a first position, to substantially fully expose said viewing window when in a second position, and to partially occlude said viewing window when intermediate said first and second positions, said strip
25 including at least one foldable projection portion sized and dimensioned, when folded to project from the principal plane of said slide member at an angle thereto, to

extend through said slit in said upper portion of said base portion and to move therealong as said slide member is slidably moved relative to said base portion, said slide member including a portion extending beyond said base portion even when said slide member is positioned to substantially fully occlude said viewing window,
5 said extending portion forming a handle portion,

when detached from said sheet of material, said slide member component and said base portion component being positionable with one another with said slide member component within said slot of said base portion component with said projection portion of said slide member component extending through said
10 slit in said upper portion of said base portion component when said component is in said folded configuration to form an assembled word isolator device,

said assembled word isolator device positionable upon a generally flat surface to encompass text appearing thereon within the outline of the viewing window and to allow the viewing of at least a portion of said encompassed text as
15 said slide member component is slidably moved relative to said base portion component while said base portion component remains in such position on the generally flat surface,

said handle portion being movable by a user to effect slidable movement of said slide member component relative to said base portion component
20 to control the degree of occlusion of the viewing window and the amount of text viewable through said viewing window.

9. The template of claim 8 wherein said markings include scores in said sheet of material along the points of detachment of said detachable components from
25 said sheet of material, along the points of detachment of said generally rectangular elongated portions of said upper and lower portions of said base portion component

from said base portion component, and at the location of the openable slit in said upper portion of said base portion component.

10. The template of claim 9 wherein said sheet of material has a
5 thickness rating in the range of approximately 16-150 lbs.

11. A pattern for creation of an assemblable educational device for isolating words appearing on a flat surface comprising:

a sheet of material having markings thereon defining a base portion component and a slide member component,

5 said base portion component being sized and dimensioned to be foldable over on to itself to define a generally thin, elongated configuration having upper and lower portions and an intermediate slot therebetween, said upper portion at least partially overlapping said lower portion, said upper and lower portions each including a similarly sized and dimensioned detachable generally rectangular
10 elongated portion each of which is detachable to effect a generally rectangular elongated opening, said elongated openings being generally sized and aligned with one another to form an aperture through the folded configuration and to permit observation from a point above said upper portion through said aligned openings of a location below said lower portion, said aperture defining a viewing window, said
15 upper portion including an openable slit located generally parallel to said elongated opening in said upper portion and the fold in said sheet-like member,

said slide member component being sized and dimensioned to be a thin, elongated, strip sized and dimensioned to fit within said intermediate slot between the upper and lower portions of said base portion and to be slidably
20 movable therein to substantially fully occlude said viewing window when in a first position, to substantially fully expose said viewing window when in a second position, and to partially occlude said viewing window when intermediate said first and second positions, said strip including at least one foldable projection portion sized and dimensioned, when folded to project from the principal plane of said slide
25 member at an angle thereto, to extend through said slit in said upper portion of said base portion and to move therealong as said slide member is slidably moved relative

to said base portion, said slide member including a portion extending beyond said base portion even when said slide member is positioned to substantially fully occlude said viewing window, said extending portion forming a handle portion,

5 said slide member component and said base portion component being positionable with one another with said slide member component within said slot of said base portion component with said projection portion of said slide member component extending through said slit in said upper portion of said base portion component when said component is in said folded configuration to form an assembled word isolator device,

10 said assembled word isolator device positionable upon a generally flat surface to encompass text appearing thereon within the outline of the viewing window and to allow the viewing of at least a portion of said encompassed text as said slide member component is slidably moved relative to said base portion component while said base portion component remains in such position on the
15 generally flat surface,

 said handle portion being movable by a user to effect slidable movement of said slide member component relative to said base portion component to control the degree of occlusion of the viewing window and the amount of text viewable through said viewing window.

20 said markings on said sheet of material containing discontinuities creating open segments for drawing an outline of said base portion and said slide portion when placed over another flat sheet of material.